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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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E X T R A C O P Y

FILE No. 143

MONTHLY REPORT

FOR

NOVEMBER, 1923.

NOTED
P. E. B.

December 7, 1923

*Well
Glad
Keep in
file with
other
papers
Gunn*

Dear Sir:

The following is my report on conditions in the Yellowstone National Park and on the operation of the park for the month of November, 1923:

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS

The month of November throughout its entirety was quite ideal for outside work considering the season of the year. It far surpassed conditions of the previous month. There was less snow than there has been in nine years during November. Extensive construction work was continued at points in the park by both Hotel and Camps Companies, and some of this work will be discussed in more detail under another heading.

Weather

The following records are quoted from the report for November of the Observer in charge of the local United States Weather Bureau at Mammoth Hot Springs, Park Headquarters:

The month as a whole was warm and sunny, with very little snow.

Temperature: Monthly mean, 32.4° , is 311° above normal. The temperature remained above normal except for a few days at the end of the month. Highest, 55° on the 7th; lowest, 9° on the 27th. Snow with moderately heavy wind accompanied the storm on the 30th, which was followed by a cold wave with temperature one degree below zero by 5 A.M. of December 1st.

Precipitation: Total, 0.48 inch, is 0.96 inch below normal, and the least for November in the past nine years. Unusually warm, pleasant weather prevailed until the 20th, after which light snow as of daily occurrence.

Snowfall: Total, 4.4 inches, is 6.6 inches below the 35-year average, and the least since 1917 when only 1.8 inches were recorded in November.

Wind: Average hourly velocity 7.0 miles; normal 8.0. Maximum velocity 37 miles from the south on the 24th.

Sunshine: Percentage of possible, 59, is the greatest for November during the past 15 years.

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Snow Depths: On November 30th the rangers reported the following snow depths. Compare with snow depths one year ago at the same date.

<u>Station</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1922</u>
Sylvan Pass	6 in.	8 in.
Gallatin	8	11
Lake	8	6
Tower Falls	3	6
Hellroaring	3	6
Crovice	4	9

The greatest snow depth reported at the close of the month was in the Blanding Hill district, between Norris and Canyon, 12 inches being reported.

Travel

The number of visitors to the park since September 25th (when the travel records for the season were officially closed) are as follows:

Total number of cars	294
" " " motorcycles	1
" " " people	1,005 - the Cooke City

Stage accounting for 13 of the total number of persons reported. There was very little travel during the month of November and no accurate check has been kept by rangers at the entrance stations

since October 10th, their time being mostly occupied with patrols, so the total figures here noted is approximate only.

II. PERSONNEL

On November 1st there were 69 appointees on the payrolls and on November 30th there were 66. The following list shows the number of appointees of various classes serving during the month, with a general statement of the kind of work in which they were engaged:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Kind of Work Performed</u>
1	Superintendent	General administration and supervision of all activities in the park
1	Asst. Superintendent	Administration, purchasing, disbursing.
2	Asst. Engineers	1 in charge of engineering work in park, 1 assisting
7	Clerks	1 Financial Clerk; 1 Cost Accounting Clerk; 1 Personnel and File Clerk; 1 Clerk on orders, proposals and vouchers; 1 Time and Payroll Clerk (services terminated close of November 14); 2 stenographer-Typists on stenographic work for Superintendent.
3	Electricians	Operated power plant regular shift, including Sundays, road meters, did necessary line work.
3	Foremen	1 in charge of headquarters corral and freighting work about headquarters; two on roads and construction work; one on wagons and sprinkling system.
1	Telegrapher	Sent and received all Government Western Union messages, operated one shift on telephone switchboard.
2	Telephone Switchboard Operators	Operated telephone switchboard daily shifts, including Sunday.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Kind of Work Performed</u>
1	Master Mechanic	In charge of shops and of repair to heavy road machinery.
1	Blacksmith	General Blacksmith work, including shoeing of horses in shop, overhauling and repairing tools and equipment.
1	Master Painter	General shop work including painting equipment and building
5	Laborers	Teaming, freighting, assisting mechanics and miscellaneous work at headquarters.
1	Steward and Master of Transportation	In charge of all transportation and of storehouses
1	Chief Buffalo Keeper	In charge of hay ranch operations at Slough Creek; one assisting
1	Buffalo Herder	Assisting Buffalo Keeper
1	Master Plumber	In charge of general plumbing and water and sewer systems
1	Auto Mechanic	On duty in power plant
1	Carpenter	Repairing buildings at headquarters.
1	Chief Park Ranger	In charge of ranger force
1	First Asst. Chief Park Ranger	In charge of Northern District
2	Assts. Chief Park Ranger	1 on duty at Lake District; 1 in charge Chief Ranger's office (transferred to Grand Canyon Nat'l Park, effective Nov. 18, 1923.)
21	Park Rangers (15 WAE)	Patrolling, protection of game, miscellaneous duties. (One WAE ranger resigned close Nov. 9, 1923)
8	Temporary Park Rangers	Patrolling, miscellaneous duties.

Leaves of Absence

Nellie Roach, Telephone Operator, Nov. 1-26 incl., 22 days.
William N. Purdue, Park Ranger, Nov. 1-9, 8 days.
Alfred C. D. Henman, Laborer, Nov. 21-23, 3 days.
William I. Davis, Assistant Engineer, Nov. 17, 1 day.
Lucy Bilkert, Clerk, November 10-28, 16 days.
Joseph Joffe, Clerk, Nov. 8-10, 3 days.
Julia S. Stockett, Clerk, Nov. 7(noon), 1/2 day.
Harlie Hodgins, Park Ranger, Nov. 27-28, 2 days.
Andrew R. Edwin, Clerk, Nov. 20-24, 5 days.
Nathan Sandel, Telegraph Operator, Nov. 21-26, 5 days.
Sam T. Woodring, Chief Ranger, Nov. 16 (noon)-17, 1-1/2 days.
Joseph Joffe, Clerk, Nov. 17, 1 day.
C. D. Dale, Electrician, Nov. 21-24, 4 days.
Roby R. Wisdom, Park Ranger, Nov. 15-16, 2 days.
Wm. L. Bicket, Carpenter, Nov. 23(noon)-24, 1-1/2 days.
Warren Hutchings, Asst. Buf. Keeper, Nov. 26-27, 2 days.
William Wiggins, Master Plumber, Nov. 30, 1 day.
George Winn, Park Ranger, Nov. 27-28, 2 days.
Wm. J. O'Loughlin, Laborer, Nov. 10, 1 day.
Roy Frazier, Park Ranger, Nov. 30, 1 day.

Sick Leave

Fred Finch, Park Ranger, Nov. 17-20, 3 days.

In addition to the regular employees listed above under appointment, the following were employed temporarily by the day:

	<u>November 1st</u>	<u>November 30th</u>
Laborers	11	7
Skilled Laborers	9	9
Two-horse teamsters	2	2
Cook	1	1
Waitress	1	1
Truck Drivers	5	4
Foreman	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
	30	24
Appointees	<u>69</u>	<u>66</u>
Total	99	90

III. WORK COMPLETED

(b) Maintenance and Repair of Physical Improvements

Shoshone Forest Road: On the first of the month a crew in charge of Foreman White began work of making repairs at the Elk Fork Bridge, where extensive damage was done by the cloudburst of July 22nd. A rock filled log crib, 350 feet in length, is being constructed to extend from the east abutment of the bridge to connect with the remaining section of the existing crib. A double row of piles eleven feet apart and spaced ten feet, making seventy in all, have been driven for the crib.

To make repairs to the east abutment of the bridge, which settled 18 inches at the upstream end, a coffer dam of 2 inch sheet piling has been built entirely around the abutment, water pumped out and excavation made to a level about one foot below the concrete footing. Piles will now be driven inside this coffer dam, sawed off below the water level and a three foot layer of concrete placed over them to make a footing for a new abutment.

Road Improvements: The crew in charge of Foreman Knochs, that has been engaged since July first, surfacing and otherwise improving the Gibbon Canyon road, was taken into headquarters and disbanded Nov. 7th. As the weather became disagreeable at that time and the air compressor was causing considerable trouble, it was considered advisable to abandon this work until spring. During the six days which the crew worked a particularly bad rock point between Madison Junction and the Firehole Cascades was removed by drilling and blasting.

(c) Miscellaneous Improvement Work

In order to secure data from which the leases of all park operators can be revised, and new plats made of their respective properties, we made surveys this month as follows:

Yellowstone Park Transportation Company
At Old Faithful
Yellowstone Lake
Canyon
Gardiner Entrance

Yellowstone Park Hotel Company
At Old Faithful Hotel
Yellowstone Lake Hotel
Canyon Hotel
Morris

Yellowstone Park Camps Company

At Old Faithful Camp

Yellowstone Lake Camp

Canyon Camp

Camp Roosevelt

Sylvan Pass Lunch Station

Cafeteria at Fishing Bridge Auto Camp

Cafeteria at Old Faithful Auto Camp

A. C. Hamilton

At Old Faithful Store

Old Faithful Auto Camp Store

West Thumb Store

Lake Store

Fishing Bridge Auto Camp Store

George Whittaker

Canyon Store

J. E. Haynes

Tower Falls Store

Canyon Picture Shop

Old Faithful Picture Shop

H. P. Brothers

Old Faithful Geysers Baths

Yellowstone Park Boat Company

Lake dock and boathouse

Boatways at Fish Hatchery

Dock at West Thumb

IV. WORK IN PROGRESS

(a) Construction of Physical Improvements

Improvements by Park Utilities:

Yellowstone Park Hotel Company:

Lake Hotel: Roughing in of hot and cold water pipes to each room in old part of hotel 80% completed.

Dining room addition and rooms above enclosed, sash installed, roof put on, wiring plumbing and lathing completed, and plastering started.

Addition to kitchen roughed in, siding put on,
sash installed, and partitions started.
Addition to engine room, 90% completed.
Re-wiring of old rooms 75% completed.
Rear wing of the hotel plastered and kalsomined.
Rooms in front of old hotel replastered where
plastering torn out by installation of plumbing.
Connection between old and new building, trim
installed.

Canyon Hotel:

Roughing in of hot and cold water pipes for [✓]running
water in all rooms 80% completed.

Mammoth Hotel:

Re-wiring of old part 80% completed.
All concrete work on new kitchen completed, and
started on raising the walls. Concrete for
bay window in addition to dining room completed.

Yellowstone Park Transportation Company:

Mammoth: New storage shed approximately 225 ft. by 80 ft. completed.
Three rooms added to messhouse. Enlargement of paint shop completed.
The usual winter work of overhauling cars is in full swing and some 50 cars have already been through the shops.

(c) Miscellaneous Improvement Work

The Master Painter repaired glass at the Bunkhouse, Cuming's and Stinnett's quarters; repainted fire equipment; papered bedroom and hallway in Neuman's quarters, varnished floors in Miss Madsen's quarters; papered dining room in Cuming's quarters, living room in Stinnett's, living room in Bickets, bedroom at Allans; and miscellaneous work about buildings, signs, etc.

The Master Mechanic and his assistants repaired cars and trucks, and general equipment. Completely overhauled Ree truck #15.

The Carpenter made minor repairs to buildings and built a new wood shed.

The Blacksmith shod horses and completely overhauled six road graders.

The Master Plumber, and his assistants, maintained the water and sewer systems at Mammoth, and concluded the work of enlarging the heating plant in the Bachelor Building.

The Steward and Master of Transportation supervised the hauling and storage of forage, freight, etc. 76 cords of wood were hauled from a point eight miles from Mammoth to headquarters. Five drivers and one swamper were used, and on November 30th three drivers were laid off.

Building, Grounds, Etc., at Headquarters: One man with team did freighting, cleaning grounds, hauling garbage, etc. The foreman repaired harness over a period of ten days.

The Telephone System and Power Plant were operated in the usual manner. The Power Plant was run constantly with the results shown in comparison for November, 1922, as follows:

	1922	1923
Total current generated, in KW hours	29450	38050
Of this, sold to public utilities @ 5¢ per KWH	2213	4329
Consumed for street lighting	2061	1650
Balance, consumed in Government buildings for power and lighting, and lost on lines in transit	24176	32071
Peak load during month in KWH	64	84

During the month of November two new metallic circuits were completed between Mammoth and Gardiner and these were phantomod, giving an independent circuit between Mammoth and Gardiner Ranger and Checking Stations.

Two 25', twenty-two 30' and one 40' Cedar Poles were set in the power line and 1337 No. 4 W.P. Copper wire was strung, replacing a like amount of wire on which the insulation was nearly gone after having been in service since 1902. The work of removing the old wire will be completed in about one week. This will also do away with the present unsightly line across the formation in the vicinity of Liberty Cap.

The Telephone and Switchboard Office was open daily from 7:30 A.M. to 8:45 P.M. The total business handled was as follows:

Switchboard Calls

On Government local lines	3,132
On Hotel Company lines	210
On Long Distance Connections	155
Total	<u>3,497</u>

Telegrams

Government sent	77
Commercial sent	<u>43</u>
Total	120
Government received	46
Commercial received	<u>55</u>
Total	102

Office Force

The office force was busy with usual routine work which includes orders, payment of vouchers, preparation of accounts, reports, general correspondence, etc. 919 pieces of official mail were received and 1082 were sent out during the month.

Trip of the Superintendent

Superintendent Albright left the park on November 6th for a trip to Denver and Chicago. He returned on November 20th. In Denver, he conferred with the Secretary of the Interior and Director Mather in his capacity as Field Assistant to the Director, and participated in Denver in discussions of the transportation franchise of the policy of the National Park Service as it affected Rocky Mountain National Park. Leaving Denver on November 11th he went to Chicago with Director Mather and the Secretary, and in Chicago conferred with the Passenger Traffic Managers of the railroads serving Yellowstone National Park, and H. H. Hays, President of the Yellowstone Park Camps Company, and W. M. Nichols, Assistant to the President of the Yellowstone Park Hotel and Transportation Companies, in regard to the control of organized party business during the season

1924. New regulations were drawn up regarding the control of this business, copies of which have been sent to you. Later, compared rate schedules, timetables for operation of busses, railroad timetables, etc. Other matters of this kind relating to 1924 operations were discussed and decisions reached.

In St. Paul, Superintendent Albright conferred with officials of the Northern Pacific Railroad in regard to Yellowstone affairs and with officers of the Great Northern in regard to Glacier Park matters. He also discussed 1924 operations with J. E. Haynes, official photographer. He called and paid his respects to Mrs. H. P. Langford, widow of the first superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, and also conferred with Mr. C. L. Spencer, a member of the 1872 Hayden Survey in Yellowstone Park, in regard to the climbing of the Grand Teton in 1872 by Messrs. Langford and Stevenson.

Since returning to the park Mr. Albright considered all matters relating to revision of rate schedules of public utilities and individual operators and forwarded the 1924 schedules to Washington for approval, and likewise, completed the editing of the Rules and Regulations and Manual for Railroad Visitors.

Ranger Patrols

Rangers have been engaged in the usual patrols from their respective stations. The snow flurries of the last couple of days has put the elk on the move in the Lamar River district and extensive and constant patrols are required throughout the Northern District to keep them in check. Chief Ranger Woodring has made frequent trips to this district and First Asst. Chief Ranger Trischman has just returned from a trip along the north line; he reports everything in good shape. Assistant Chief Ranger Douglas makes a like report for the Southern District.

VII. POLICIES:

There were no changes in policy during the month.

VIII. COST OF OPERATION:

The cost of operating the park for the month of November, 1923, will be shown on the monthly Cost Accounting Report which will go forward as soon as prepared.

IX. OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST

Wild Animals

Game Conditions: Game conditions are very satisfactory to date. Forage is ample on both higher and lower ranges. Antelope, deer, elk, mountain sheep and moose are all in fine shape for winter.

Game losses occasioned by hunters in regions adjacent to the park are reported to date as follows:

	<u>Elk</u>	<u>Moose</u>	<u>Deer</u>	<u>Grizzly Bears</u>	<u>Black</u>
Callatin District	41		13		3
North Boundary	35				4
Riverside District	12				
Upper Yellowstone	29	10	3	4	1
Sylvan Pass District	2				
 Total	 119	 10	 16	 4	 8

Elk: There are large numbers of elk on Specimen Ridge and along the Hellroaring slope, and numerous bands are also on the tributaries of the Lamar. 1800 have been counted between Hellroaring and Slough Creek and 200 on Coyote. There are about 1200 on the Lamar River Meadows. Small herds have also been observed on Sepulcher Mountain and Mt. Everts.

Deer: There are numerous deer around Mammoth at this time and they are in their usual good condition. On the morning of November 18th a young buck (two years old) that had been frequenting the grounds around Mammoth was observed to be in a badly injured condition resulting from encounters with a couple of older bucks that are also regularly seen about Mammoth. The two other bucks were more or less injured but not seriously. The injuries of the young buck were fatal and it was necessary to shoot him. The others have apparently recovered but are not so frequently seen. About 50 head of deer are reported on Hellroaring and small bands have been observed at numerous regions throughout the park.

Antelope: 18 antelope were counted on Hellroaring on November 20th and numerous small bands are reported on the slopes of Sepulchre Mountain and Mt. Everts. They have recently been moving down below Gardiner and the main herd is now in the neighborhood of Hoppe's Ranch.

Mountain Sheep: Rangers at Tower Falls report 37 head of mountain sheep at Junction Butte, 11 of which are lambs. 9 have been observed along the Gardiner Canyon, below Mammoth. They are all in good condition.

Moose: Moose have recently been seen at numerous places in the park and are quite plentiful in the Upper Yellowstone. Five have been seen on Maple Creek and 1 at Norris; several have been seen at various points along Robinson Creek (West Boundary). The losses occasioned by hunters are reported as 10, all of them being from the Upper Yellowstone District.

Buffalo, tame herd: There is nothing special to report in connection with the buffalo herd this month. No losses have been suffered and they are all in good condition.

Small Animals: Beavers are, as usual, to be seen in all those regions of the park which are suited to their requirements. The rangers at Soda Butte Station report considerable activity by otters along Soda Butte Creek. Much evidence of fish destruction has been observed.

Predatory Animals: Coyotes are numerous throughout the park. No reports have been had on wolves or mountain lions thus far. Determined efforts are being made to destroy these animals and 53 coyotes have been accounted for to date.

Shipments of Buffalo, Bear and Wolves: The following animal shipments have been made to date during the present season:

Buffalo

John W. Calder, Rensselaer Crouching Park Zoo, Utica, New York,
Shipped 10/7/23 - 1 cow

W. B. Bissell, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas,
College Station, Texas, Shipped 10/7/23 - 1 bull, 2
cows

Ray Lambert, Bradenridge Zoo, San Antonio, Texas,
Shipped 11/29/23, 2 cows.

Bears

Major W. A. Welch, Palisades Interstate Park, New York,
Shipped 10/23/23 - 1 brown bear, age 2 years,
Female.

Wolves

Major W. A. Welch, Palisades Interstate Park, New York,
2 timber wolves, grey, age 6 months.

Forest Conditions

Chief Ranger Woodring has recently returned from Black-tail, Grevice, Cottonwood and Hellroaring, where he went for the purpose of inspecting the forests that have been attacked by the spruce bud worm. He reports that upwards of 60% of the timber which was apparently dead some few months ago is now recovering.

Sickness and Medical Attention

Dr. J. Hook Wolfe, National Park Service physician, was absent from the park during the entire month of November. He is attending an Eastern medical school and specializing in post graduate work in surgery. It is expected that he will have returned by December 15th. In the mean time all cases demanding medical attention must either go to Livingston or to Chicago Hot Springs. Dr. Crabbuck, of Chico, former park physician, made one trip to the park during the month to attend a man who had fallen from a scaffold, while on construction work for the Hotel Company. The man was not badly hurt.

School

The school report for the month of November is attached hereto.

Religious Services

Church services were held in the Lodge Room of the Canteen every Thursday evening (excepting November 29th) by the Rev. Geo. F. Keohler, of the English Lutheran Church of Livingston, Montana.

The Rev. W. Friend Day, of Emigrant, Montana, of the Episcopal Church, held services in the Lodge Room at 11:00 o'clock on the morning of the 25th.

IX. RECEIPTS AND REMITTANCES

Certified check #2339, dated November 8, 1923,
drawn by Howard H. Hays, on the
Northwestern National Bank of Livingston,
Montana, to the Director, National Park
Service, amount 8.85

Certified check #2153, dated November 17, 1923,
drawn by W. M. Nichols, on the National
Bank of Montana, Helena, Montana, to the
Director, National Park Service, amount 68.18

Certified check #681, dated November 5, 1923, drawn
by Geo. Whittaker on the Northwestern
National Bank of Livingston, Montana,
to the Director, National Park Service,
amount 41.80

Certified check #1513, dated November 29, 1923,
drawn by W. M. Nichols, on the National
Bank of Montana, Helena, Montana, on the
Director National Park Service, amount 131.05

Total 249.88

Cordially yours,

Leroy Hill,
Acting Superintendent.

The Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.